

TALES

of

GNOSIS



COLLEGE

VOLUME I
NUMBER IV

APSINTHION

PROTOCOL



WRITTEN BY DR. FAUSTUS
ILLUSTRATED BY EROSARTS



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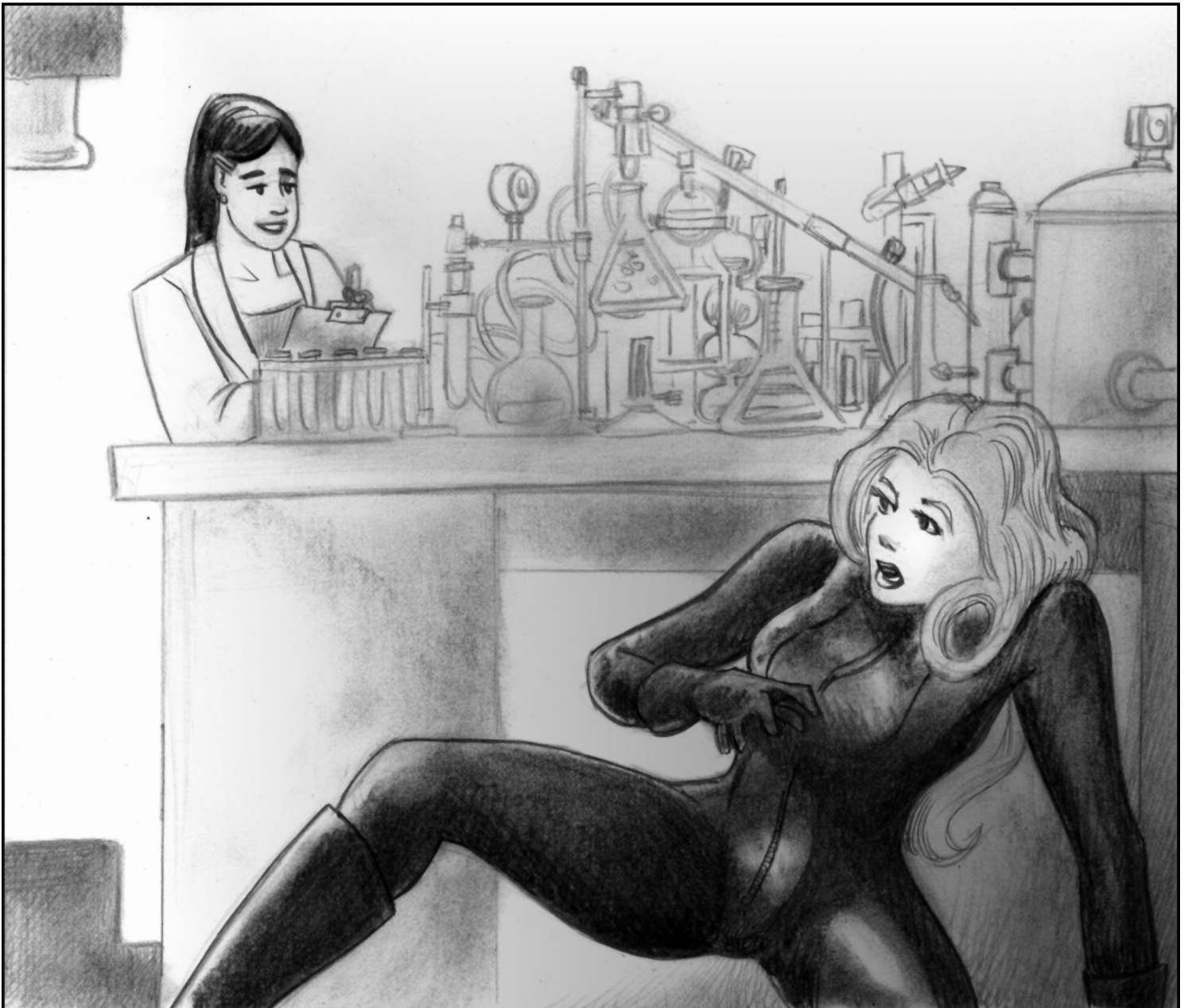


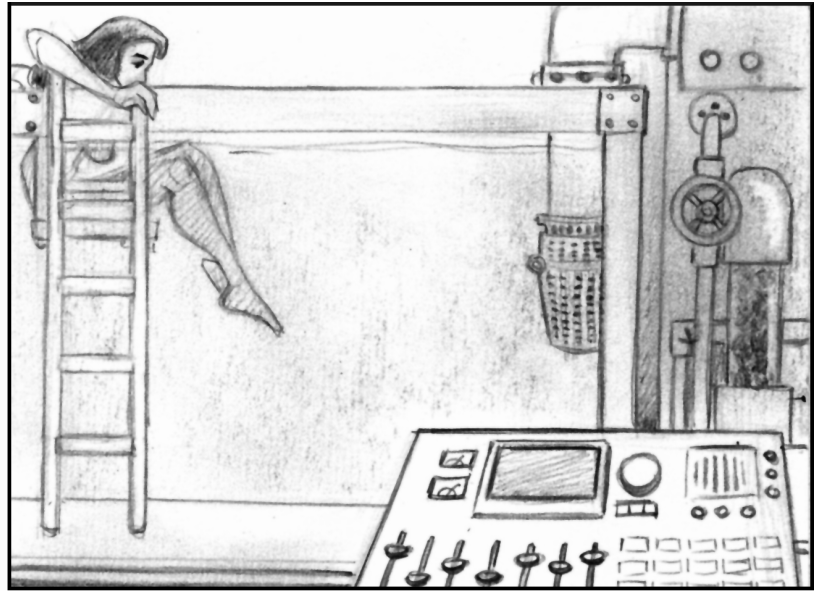


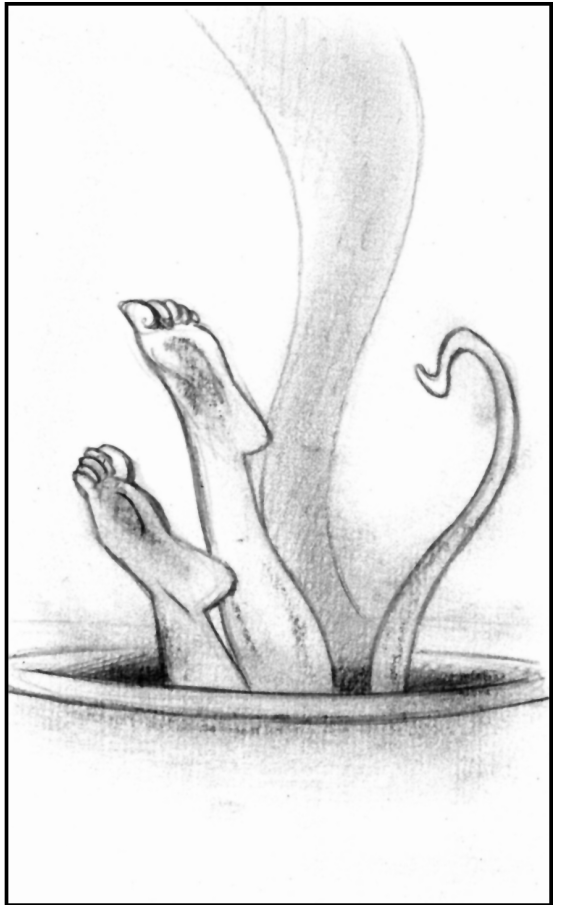
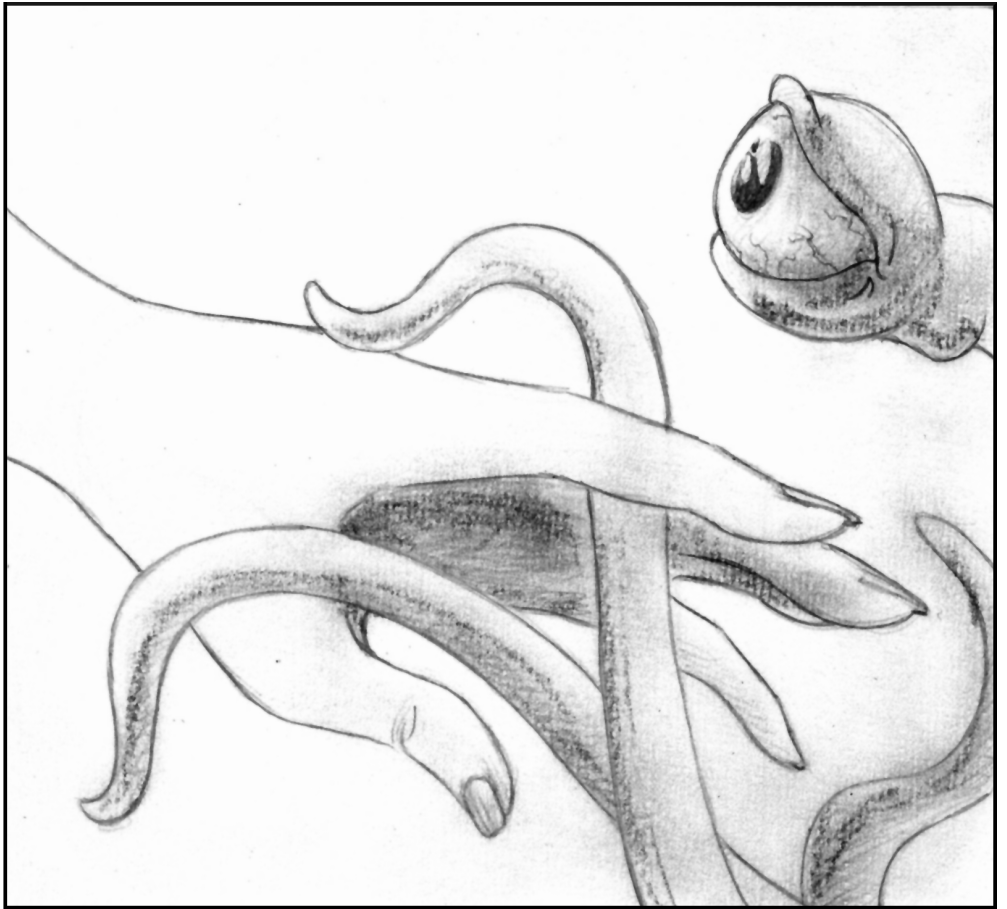
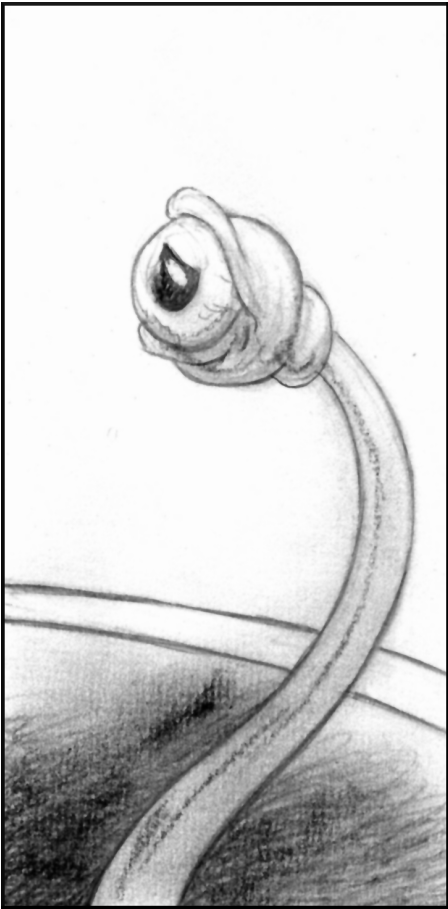
"APSINTHION PROTOCOL"
CHAPTER 4

WRITTEN BY: DR. FAUSTUS
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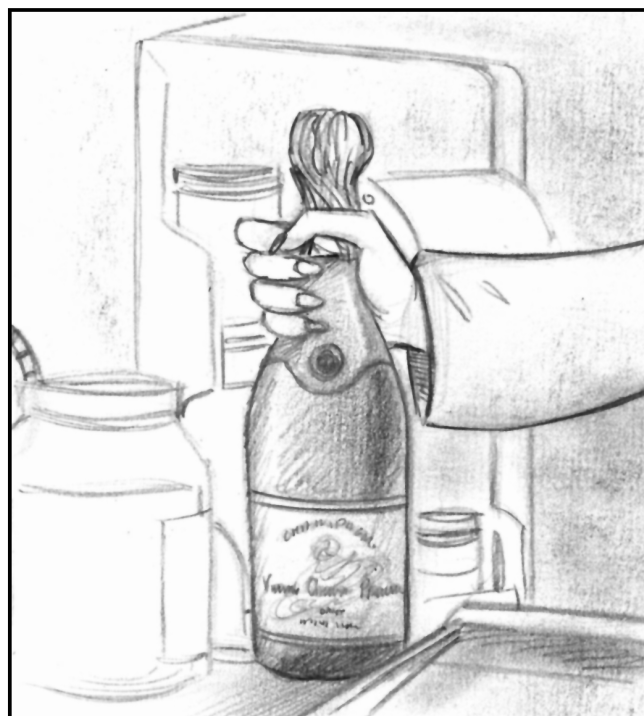


REMINDE THIS HOPELESSLY
MIDDLE-AGED SCIENTIST —
DID WE DISTILL FIVE OR SIX
PHIALS OF ουσια επιθυμιας ON
OUR LAST PROTOCOL RUN?

I WAS
SOMEWHAT
DISTRACTED BY
METAPHYSICAL
REVERIE, BUT I
THINK...FIVE.



SECURE THEM PLEASE. I
NEED TO RUSH OFF TO
THIS MEETING AT MIT. I
LEAVE THE LAB IN YOU
LADIES' GOOD HANDS.



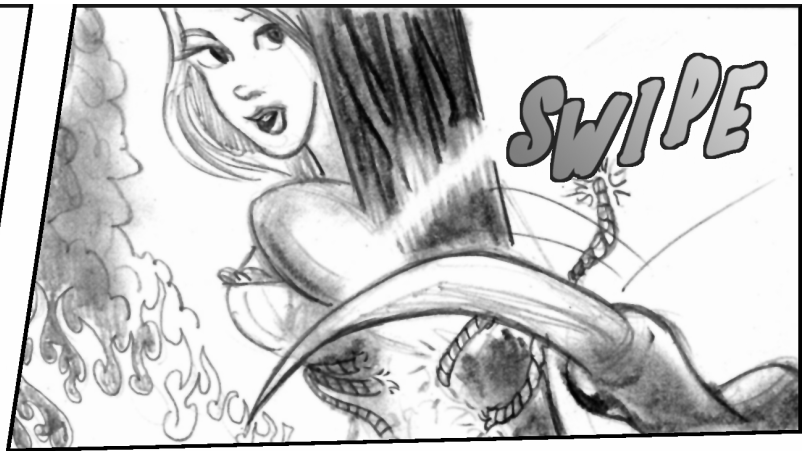


...AS IF I CAN JUST WALK
INTO MY DREAMS.

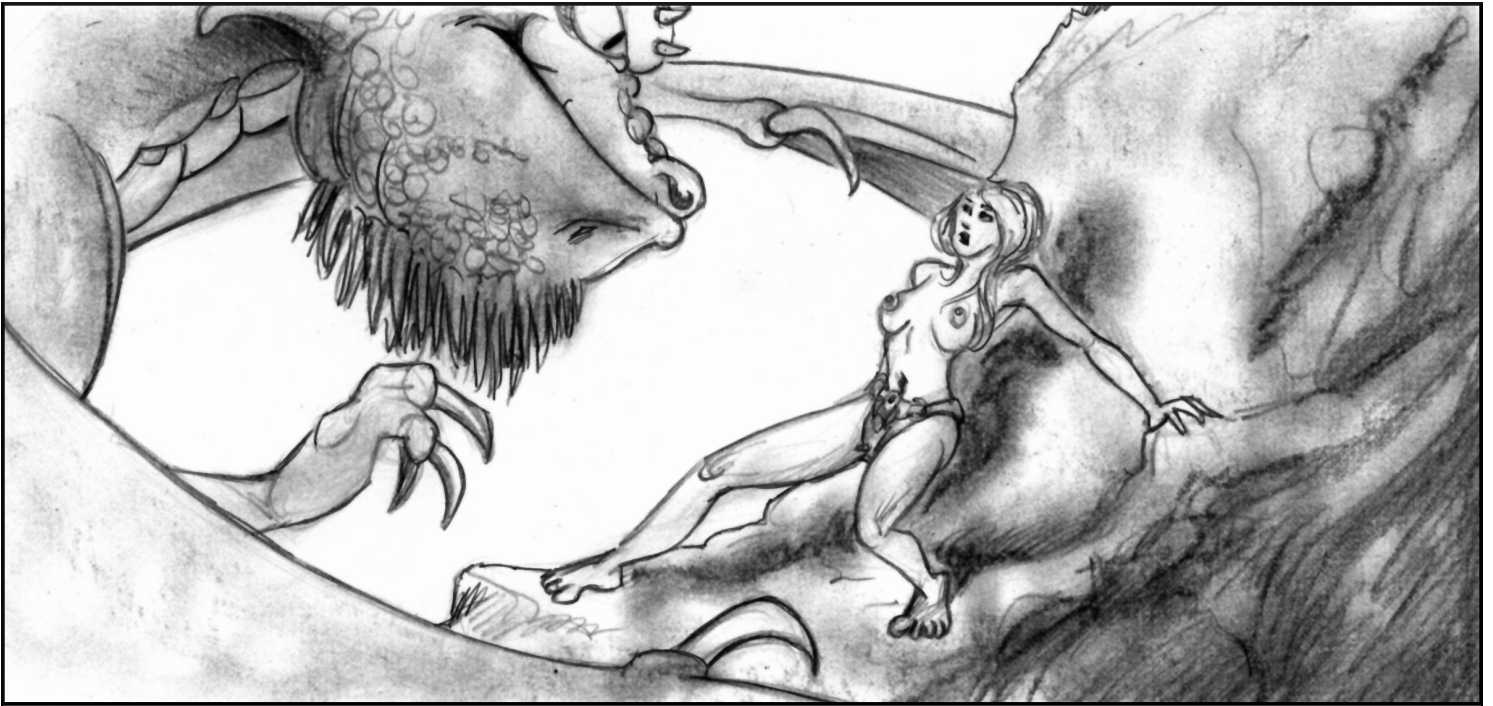
BACK, FOUL FIEND!
HELLSPAWN! HARM
THIS FAIR MAIDEN
AND THOU SHALT
TASTE MY STEEL!

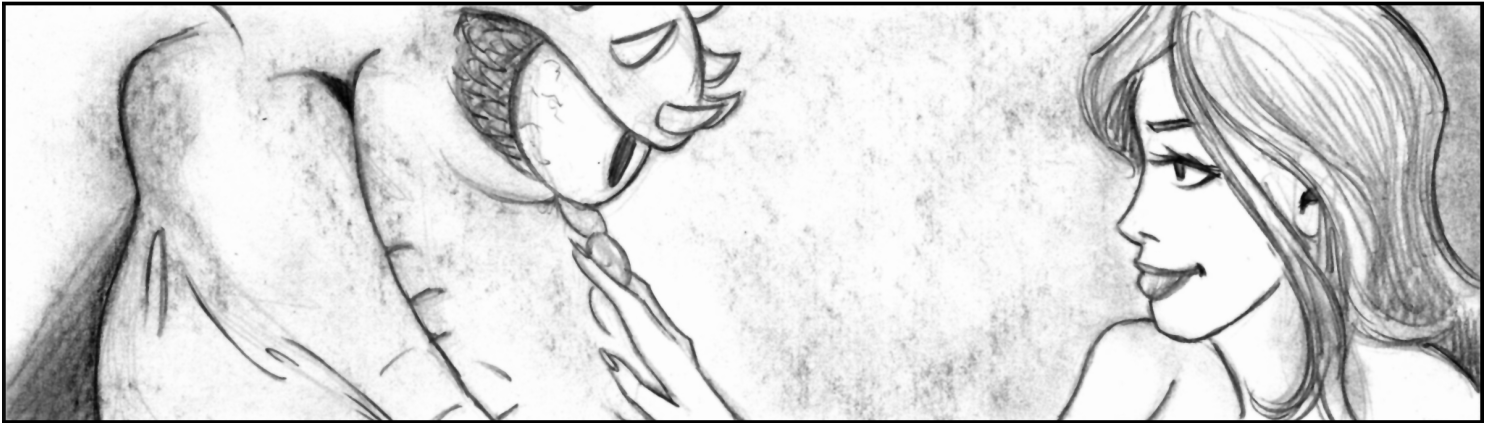


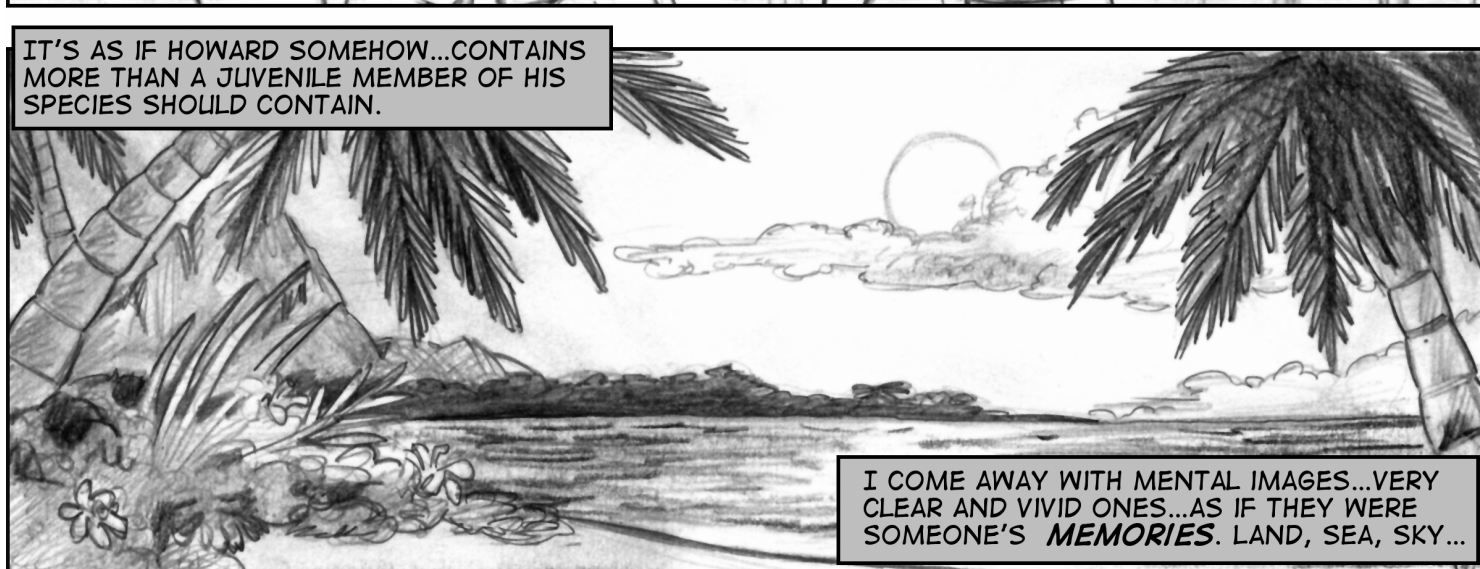












I COME AWAY WITH MENTAL IMAGES...VERY CLEAR AND VIVID ONES...AS IF THEY WERE SOMEONE'S **MEMORIES**. LAND, SEA, SKY...

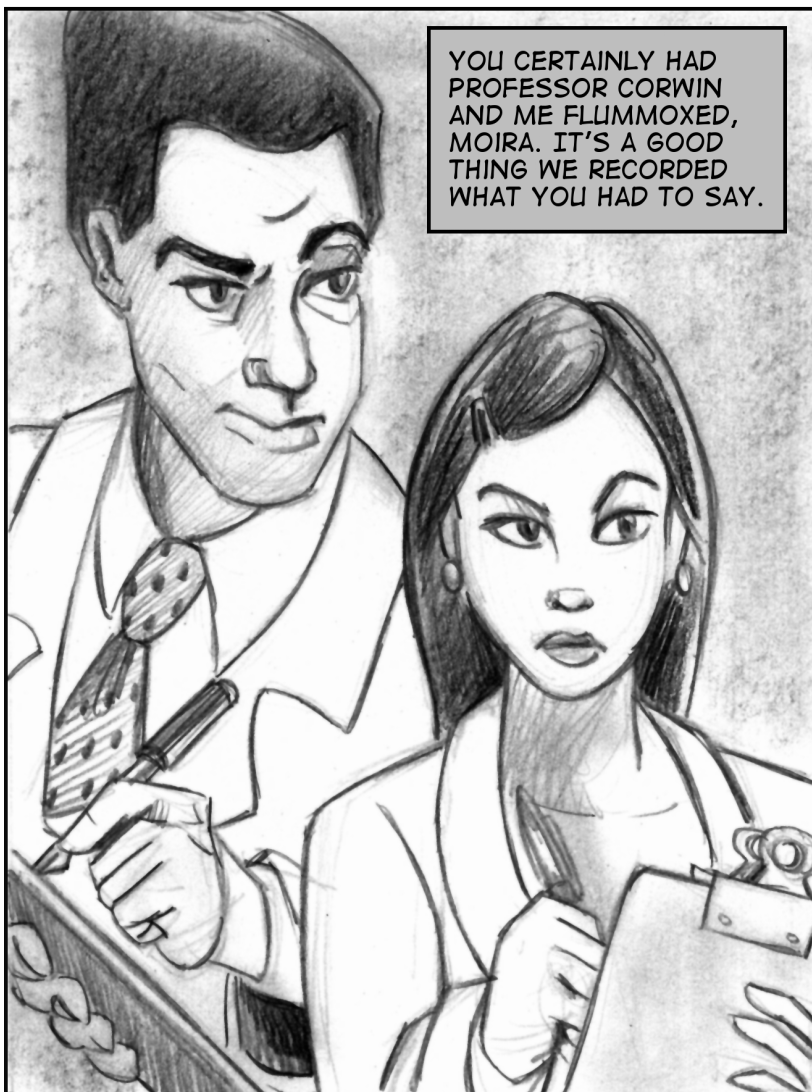
...AND **LANGUAGE**.
AFTER MY LAST
SESSION WITH
HOWARD I SPENT
SOMETHING LIKE
THIRTY MINUTES
SPEAKING IN SOME
LANGUAGE I DIDN'T
KNOW...EXCEPT THAT
I DID, SOMEHOW.

I taniu pula en
peluni en
membanyui ilun-ilun
zeberdi ti taramnya.



YOU CERTAINLY HAD
PROFESSOR CORWIN
AND ME FLUMMOXED,
MOIRA. IT'S A GOOD
THING WE RECORDED
WHAT YOU HAD TO SAY.

A LINGUIST COLLEAGUE OF PROFESSOR
CORWIN'S LATER IDENTIFIED THE
LANGUAGE AS AN AUSTONESIAN
TONGUE LONG THOUGHT EXTINCT.



IT WOULD APPEAR
THAT YOU'VE
LEARNED
SOMETHING FROM
HOWARD, MOIRA.

EITHER THAT, OR
YOU'RE REALLY
SEVERAL HUNDRED
YEARS OLD.

CAN I GET A
GOVERNMENT
GRANT IF I AM?

THE CHEMISTRY OF
THE PROTOCOL, WHICH
COMES FROM
HOWARD'S SPECIES,
FUNCTIONS AS A SORT
OF **SCANNER**. IT
REDUCES PEOPLE TO
COMPRESSED
INFORMATION — A
STREAM OF
MOLECULES THAT
FUNCTION LIKE
TRANSPORT PACKETS
IN A NETWORK
COMMUNICATIONS
PROTOCOL.

THE FLUID IN THE RECONSTITUTION POOL
CONTAINS A DENSE MATRIX OF SELF-
REPLICATING NANOMACHINES WHICH CAN
INTERPRET THE INFORMATION — OR RE-
CREATE THAT INFORMATION'S SOURCE.

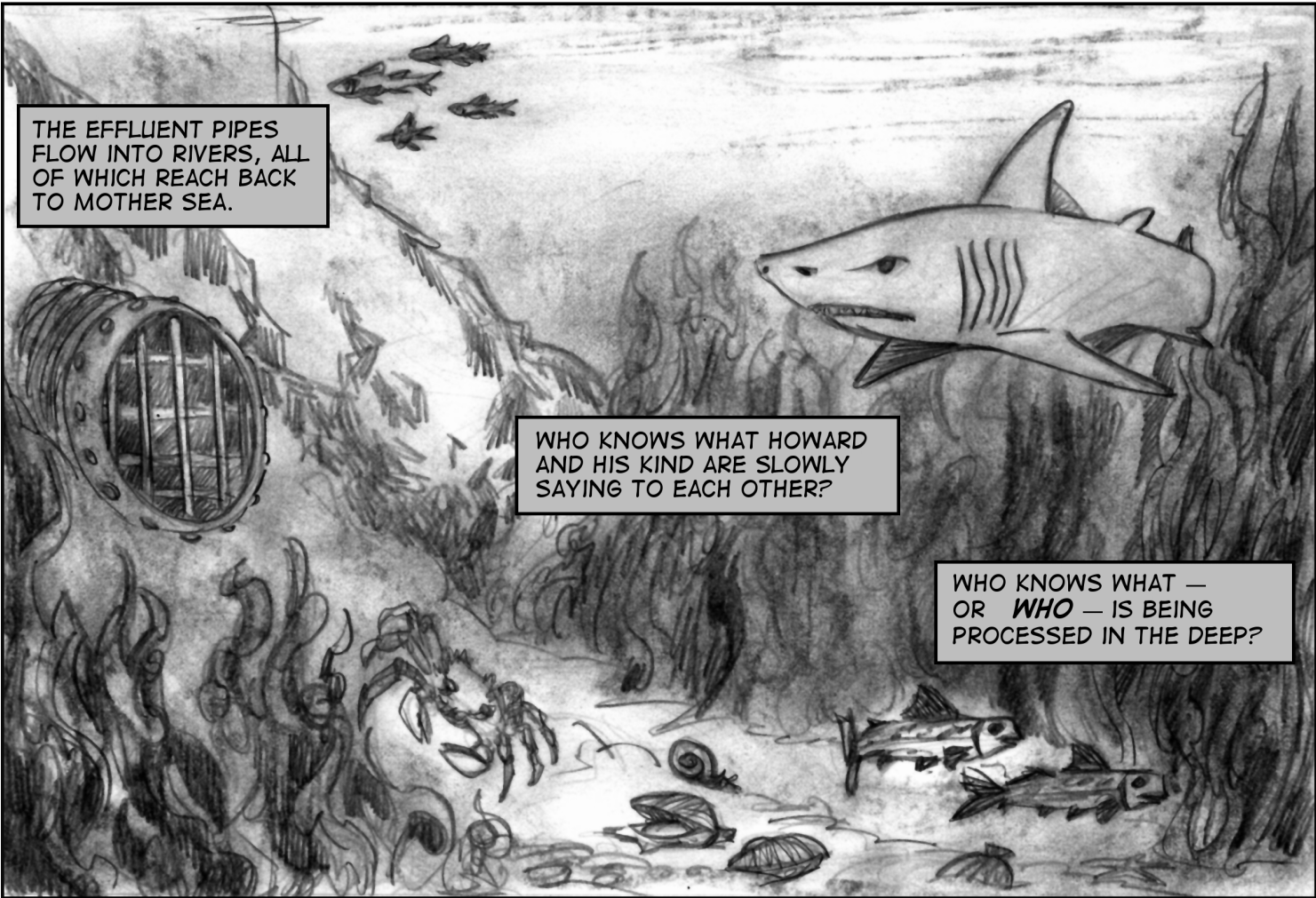
SO WHEN HOWARD AND I
ARE...IN CONTACT I AM
ABSORBING INTERPRETED
INFORMATION FROM OTHER
PEOPLE?

SO IT
WOULD
SEEM.



YOU, MOIRA, MIGHT NOT BE THE ONLY THING HOWARD IS IN CONTACT WITH.

PROFESSOR CORWIN'S INSTRUMENTS HAVE DETECTED VAST NUMBERS OF PACKET MOLECULES FLOWING BOTH WAYS THROUGH THE PIPES UNDER THIS BUILDING.

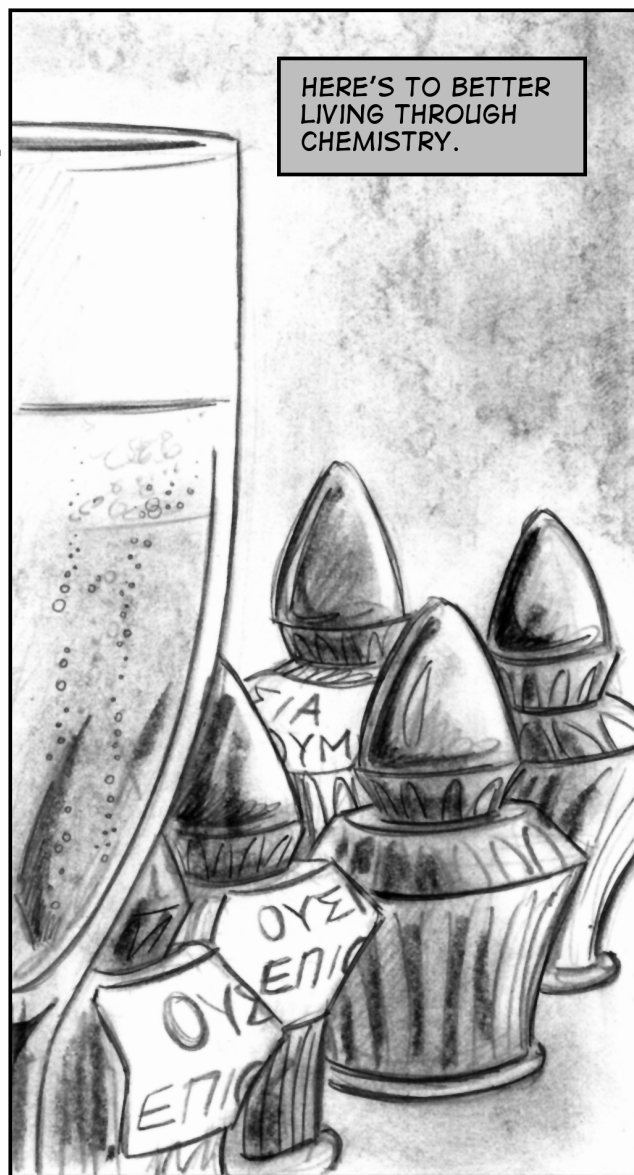


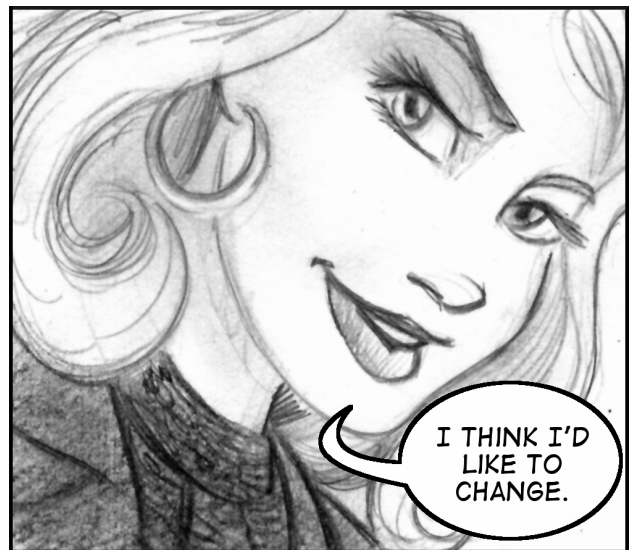
THE EFFLUENT PIPES FLOW INTO RIVERS, ALL OF WHICH REACH BACK TO MOTHER SEA.

WHO KNOWS WHAT HOWARD AND HIS KIND ARE SLOWLY SAYING TO EACH OTHER?

WHO KNOWS WHAT — OR *WHO* — IS BEING PROCESSED IN THE DEEP?









WOW!

YOU SEEM
SO...AT
EASE
BEING
LOOKED AT.



IT'S **EASY**
TO BE AT EASE.

AND I
LIKE
BEING
LOOKED AT.







WHAT BEAUTIFUL BOOBS!

WHAT PERFECT, SCULPTED LEGS!

WHAT FAIR, GOLDEN TRESSES! LIKE A FAIRYTALE PRINCESS!

WHAT LOVELY SKIN!

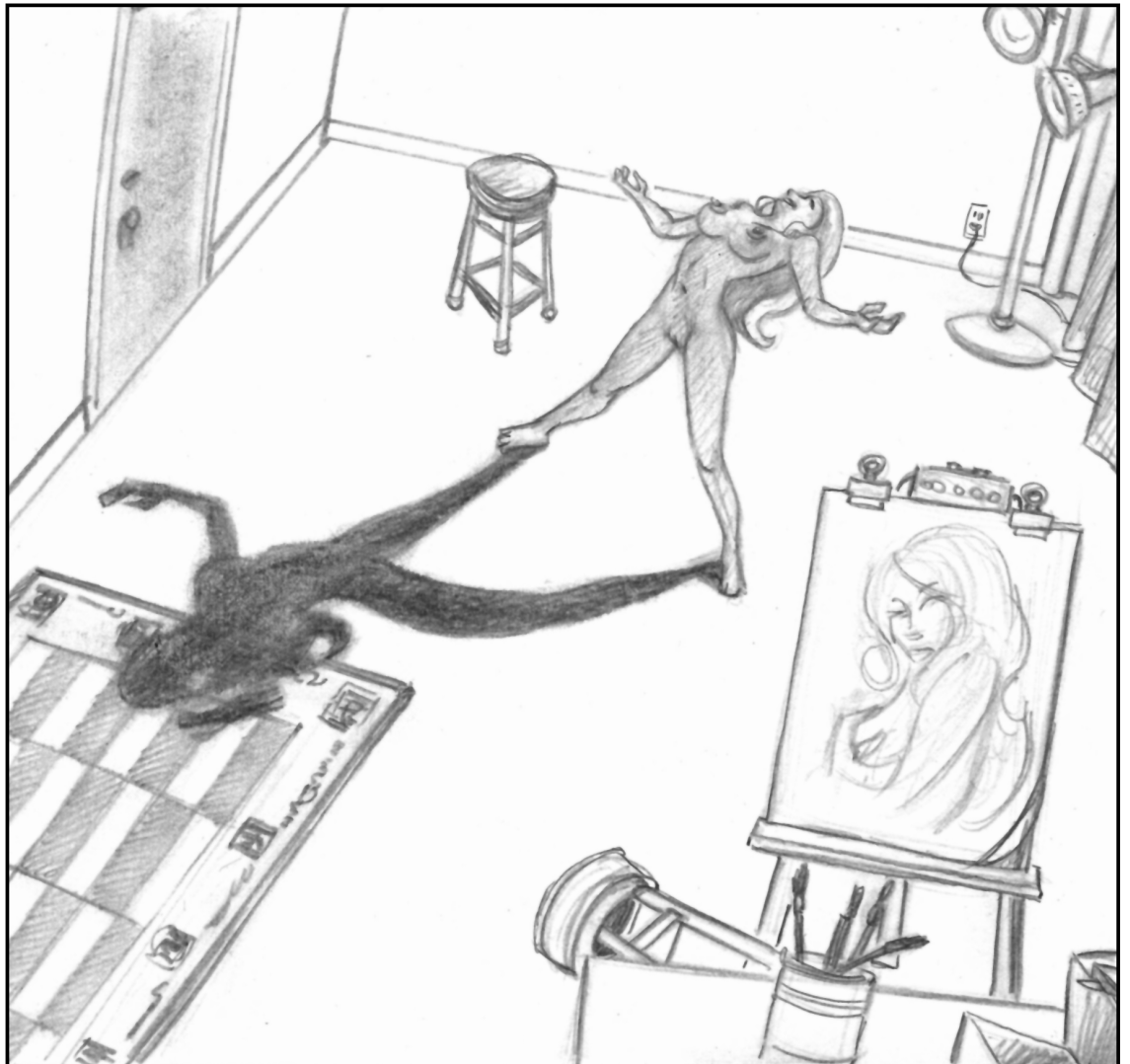
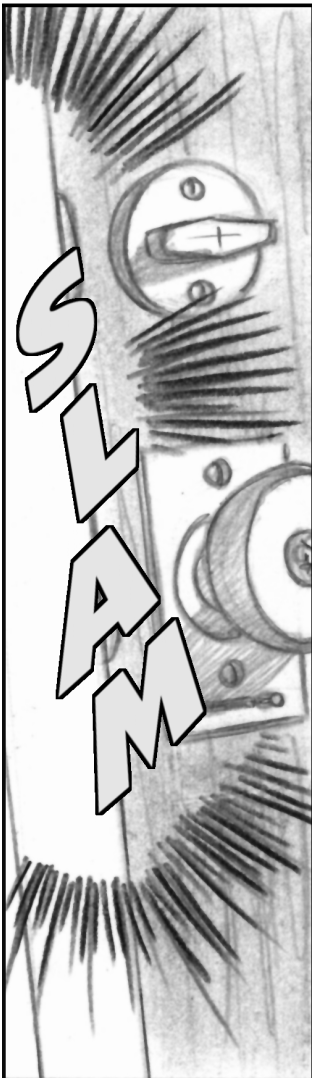
WHAT PRETTY, PERT NIPPLES!

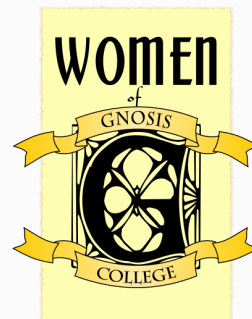
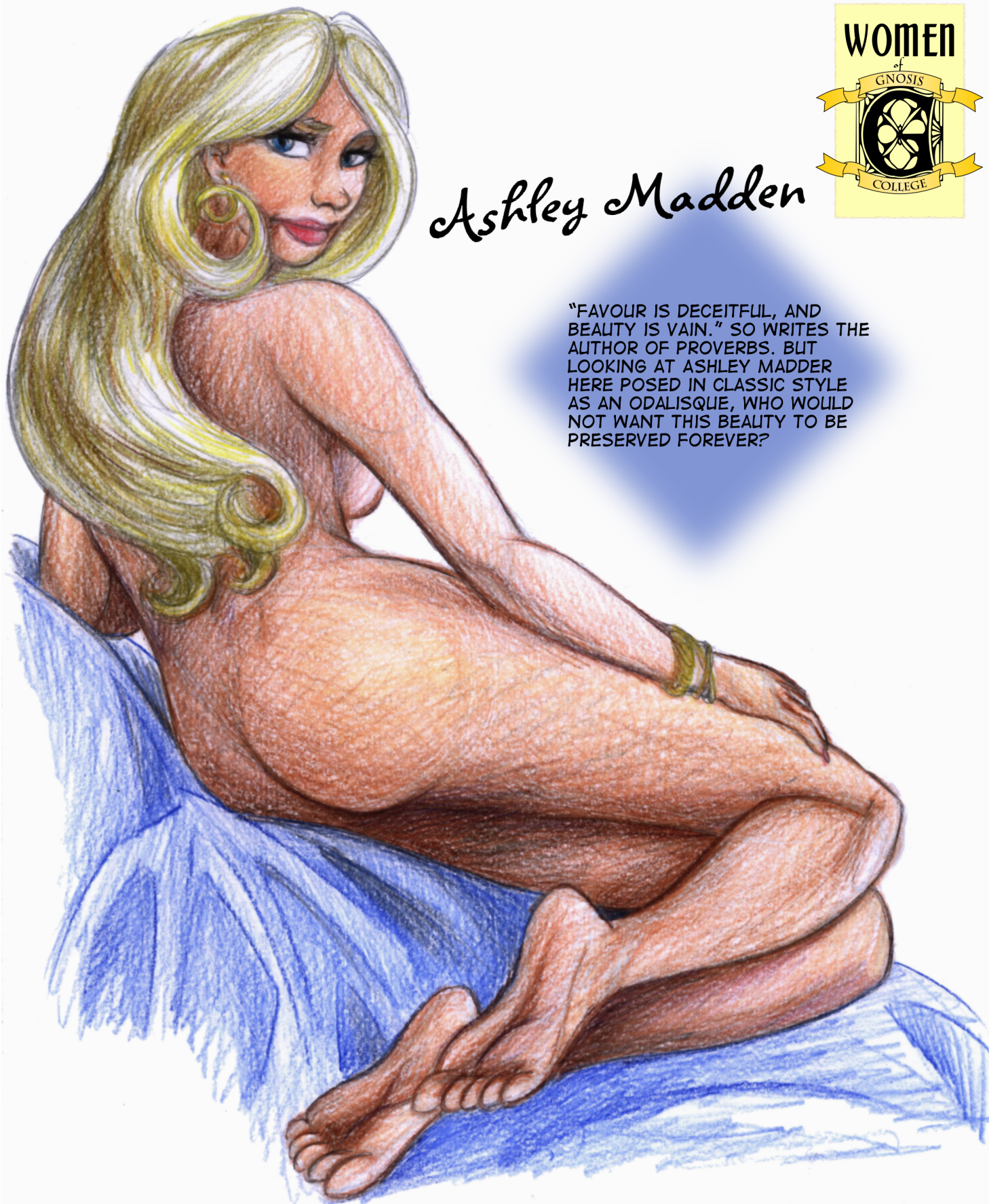
LOOK AT THAT...

I FEEL THEIR EYES ON ME RIGHT NOW.









Ashley Madden

"FAVOUR IS DECEITFUL, AND BEAUTY IS VAIN." SO WRITES THE AUTHOR OF PROVERBS. BUT LOOKING AT ASHLEY MADDEN HERE POSED IN CLASSIC STYLE AS AN ODALISQUE, WHO WOULD NOT WANT THIS BEAUTY TO BE PRESERVED FOREVER?